

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 /089 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:PWKRIEBEL:LM

APPROVED BY EA/K:DLRANARD

PM/IPS:MLBRECKON

EA/RA:MHENDERSON

DOD/ISA RLVANDEGRIFT (DRAFT)

DOD/JCS:READAMS (DRAFT)

H:AHSCHNEE

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R 171632Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652:N/A, DECONTROL 5/31/74

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, KS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF PLANNED U.S. TROOP REDUCTIONS

REF: SEOUL 2963

1. CONGRESSIONAL RECORD APRIL 29 CARRIED STATEMENTS BY NIX REPORTING ON WORK OF HIS SUBCOMMITTEE. THEME OF REMARKS WAS THAT U.S. FORCES IN ASIA SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN TO MID-PACIFIC BASES UNDER U.S. CONTROL. IN THIS CONTEXT HE MADE TWO MAJOR REFERENCES TO KOREA:

A. IN FIRST HE SAID, QUOTE WE HAVE 36,000 MEN IN SOUTH

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KOREA. THE SOUTH KOREAN ARMED FORCES NUMBER WELL OVER

600,000 MEN AND THEY HAVE A RESERVE FORCE OF APPROXIMATELY THE SAME NUMBER. OUR FORCES SERVE ONLY A SYMBOLIC PURPOSE. WHAT IS THEIR REAL VALUE? IT APPEARS FROM DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TESTIMONY THAT THEY SERVE AN UNSPECIFIED POLITICAL PURPOSE. END QUOTE.

B. LATER, HE SAID, QUOTE WHAT IS MORE, WE ARE TAKING MEN OUT OF ASIA. BUT IN A VERY SMALL WAY. 4,000 MEN OUT OF SOUTH KOREA, A FEW THOUSAND OUT OF THAILAND. END QUOTE.

2. ACCORDING TO NIX STAFF, TESTIMONY DURING SUBCOMMITTEE

HEARINGS STATED U.S. FORCE LEVEL IN ROK WAS 42,000. PRESUMABLY THIS WAS AN UNCLASSIFIED REFERENCE TO THE AUTHORIZED STRENGTH FIGURE. OTHER STATISTICS GIVEN TO SUBCOMMITTEE SHOWED 38,000 TROOPS IN KOREA AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1973. THIS FIGURE PRESUMABLY BASED ON UNCLASSIFIED STRENGTH REPORT. REFERENCE TO 36,000 MEN IN APRIL 29 STATEMENT APPARENTLY BASED ON MORE RECENT CLASSIFIED STRENGTH FIGURES. NIX STAFF SAID REFERENCE TO 4,000 REDUCTION REFERRED TO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 42,000 AND 38,000 AND WAS NOT MEANT TO INDICATE THAT A FURTHER 4,000 MEN WERE TO BE WITHDRAWN.

3. PRESS STORIES APPEAR BASED ON CONFUSION BETWEEN AUTHORIZED STRENGTH FIGURE AND ACTUAL IN-COUNTRY FIGURES AND ON MISINTERPRETATION OF SIGNIFICANCE OF 4,000 FIGURE USED IN APRIL 29 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD REMARKS. USE OF LATER IN-COUNTRY STRENGTH (36,000) INSTEAD OF EARLIER FIGURE USED IN HEARINGS (38,000) MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN CONFUSING TO ROK REPORTERS.

4. STORY, OF COURSE, IS ONE WHICH SENDS ROK EMBASSY OFFICERS FANNING OUT THROUGH U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICES. POINT TO BE MADE TO ROKG IS THAT AUTHORIZED STRENGTH FIGURE IS UNCHANGED AND THAT THERE HAVE BEEN AND WILL BE SIGNIFICANT FLUCTUATIONS FROM TIME TO TIME IN ACTUAL IN-COUNTRY FIGURES. THESE FLUCTUATIONS ARE RESULT OF MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE VARIATIONS; NUMBER OF MEN IN MILITARY PIPELINE, FOR EXAMPLE. U.S. POSITION ON U.S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORCE LEVELS REMAINS AS STATED ON MANY OCCASIONS TO ROKG: THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR REDUCTION OF U.S. FORCES; THERE WILL BE CONSULTATION WITH ROK BEFORE ANY WITHDRAWALS TAKE PLACE.

5. DOD CONCURS. RUSH

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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